Episode 4- Mike and the Family

scene 1- int. mike's living room, OCTOBER 24TH, 4PM

I'm sitting there in my underwear not doing work. I'm like surfing the internet with dead eyes and I HATE IT. The TV is on too, football game playin'. MEL comes in and jumps on my lap.

melissa

Hey, what's up?

mike

I'm just doing this... internet stuff.

MELISSA

Shouldn't you be doing your homework? Or writing something? Or you know... anything else?

MIKE

Later, I have things to check.

MELISSA

Mike, you just checked your Facebook page for the third time in the last twenty minutes.

MIKE

...Did I?

MELISSA

You know, as often as you rant about how much you hate technology, you sure spend a LOT of time doing stuff like this-

MIKE

MAN, WHATEVER! Look, I didn't decide to make the world a Matrix-esque technophilic dystopia. I just...

MELISSA

Go along with it?

MIKE

Well, what choice do I have? I need internet to keep up with the c-tools postings, I need a phone to keep in contact with people, I need a TV and DVD player for film class homework, and where else am I supposed to keep my writings?

MELISSA

Okay, that's all fine and good, but I have a question for ya... do you have to have the game on TV AND have a gamecast on your computer at the same time?

MIKE

...Is that still open?

I close out the GameCast.

MELISSA

Good. Now... PLEASE do something else?

MIKE

Like what?

MELISSA

Well... if you're really strapped for ideas...

I lean in for makeout time!

melissa

WE CAN GO FOR A WALK!

mike

Walk? Now? Why?

MELISSA

Come on lameo, this could be the last nice day of the year. And when's the last time you went outside, Mr. Natural?

MIKE

Alright, alright. Just let me check one thing first.

I turn back to the compy. She grabs me and begins to drag me towards the door.

MELISSA

Check it later, I want to go for a walk!

MIKE

NO! I NEED TO CHECK IT NOW!

She slams my laptop shut!

MELISSA

Check THAT!

MIKE

NO!!!

INTRO SEQUENCE!!!

scene 2- ext. the arb, october 24th, 5pm

MEL and I are sitting by the river watching as all the leaves fall from the trees. She cuddles up to me.

MELISSA

See? Wasn't this a much better idea than sitting inside all day?

MIKE

Yes, yes it was. What am I going to do about that homework though?

MELISSA

Eh... it'll do itself I guess...

MIKE

No, Mel, that's not how it works. If it was then I'd spend a lot more time not doing... anything.

MELISSA

Hmm... well maybe it's a good thing that it doesn't then.

MIKE

I dunno, not doing nothing is nice when you're with the right company. Like right now, I guess.

MELISSA

You guess, huh? Alright, if you say so. You're the smart one.

MIKE

Me? Smart? Not even!

MELISSA

Hey, you thought of me, didn't you?

MIKE

Well, someone is pretty high on themselves!

MELISSA

Nah, I'm only as good as my maker.

MIKE

I guess I'm not so bad then.

MELISSA

No, you're not.

We start kissin' it up a little bit, but some idiot couple comes up and starts running their putrid mouths.

putrid man

So what did you say?

PUTRID woman

I was like, so whatever shut up I'll slap you.

PUTRID MAN

So what did she say?

PUTRID WOMAN

She was like I will mess you up, bitch! And so I was like, NO, BITCH!

PUTRID MAN

So what did you say?

They babble on sotto vocce. I stop makin' out and grimace.

MIKE

Go away.

MELISSA

Come on, Mike. You can't be too mad. They're just doing what we're doing.

MIKE

I don't care. Go away.

MELISSA

Look, you want to go down that way? There's plenty of room and it looks super cool...

MIKE

Why don't they go? I was here first!

MELISSA

Mike...

MIKE

Alright, fine...

The phone rings!

MIKE

Oh look, it's time to go anyways.

MELISSA

Why, where are we going?

I point to my phone, which reads "home".

MIKE

Dinner time with the folks!

scene 3- int. mike's prius, october 24th, 6PM

I'm drivin' down Liberty Street and blasting metal, of course!

MELISSA

SO WHAT ARE WE HAVING TONIGHT?

MIKE

WHAT?

She turns down the music.

MIKE

Hey, I was listening to that!

MELISSA

Sorry, but, you know, listen to ME. What are we having for dinner?

MIKE

You want to have dinner with my family? Alright, I'll tell them to set another place. Hope you like steak and taters!

MELISSA

Nah, I'll go home and read a book or some crazy shit. Besides, if you introduce me to your family the way you introduced me to your friends...

MIKE

MAN, whatever! You're adding more insecurities that I'll have to hammer later-

MELISSA

Hey, relax. I'm yankin' your chain, buddy.

MIKE

Buddy?

MELISSA

Buddy!

Sneak kiss on the cheek! Followed by lean on shoulder!

MELISSA

What time are you coming back tonight?

MIKE

Oh... midnightish? I'm going over to Liz's afterwards, so we'll be watching Food Network and stuff.

MELISSA

Alright, have fun. I'll miss you.

MIKE

Oh... well, I can give you something to remember me by...

I sneak my fingers towards her you know what... naughty me!

MELISSA

Two hands on the wheel! Naughty.

MIKE

Alright, fine.

MELISSA

Actually... how good at you at driving with one hand?

MIKE

I'm the best in the world! And I can handle the steering wheel with my other hand. Heh heh.

MELISSA

Oh, you naughty little scamp! Don't drift off the road.

I realize I'm drifting off the road! I pull back into the lane.

MELISSA

Best in the world, huh? Rest of the world must be pretty bad...

MIKE

YEAH, THEY ARE!!!

scene 4- int. parent's house kitchen, october 24th, 6:30 PM

DAD, MOM, LIZ, BRENDAN and I are eatin' steak for dinner. LIZ is eating something else cuz she's veggie.

liz

Can you remind me what some of the side effects of a dysfuctional hypothalamus are? My exam is next week and I'm not ready.

dad

Well, it's in the reptilian part of our brain, meaning that it helps regulate things like... (babbles on sotto vocce)

MIKE (V.O.)

More med school discussions... boy is it fun when I have nothing to contribute to these conversations... well at least Brendan is out of the loop too.

I take Brendan's fork.

brendan

Hey! Give that back you bushly bushel!

MIKE

Bushel bashing bush league bush!

BRENDAN

Oleg!

MIKE

I never!

MOM makes an annoyed face and puts the fork back where it was.

DAD

Hypothalamic Amenorrhea. So that's that. (Beat.) So, Mike, how is U of M?

MIKE

It's alright.

MOM

Are you talking to new people?

dad

Any cute girls?

MIKE

Some... I tried talking to people... nobody that interesting.

mom

Well, keep trying. If you don't reach out to people, odds are they won't reach out to you.

MIKE

My girlfriend would reach out to me.

DAD

Excuse me? Your girlfriend?

scene 5- int. mike's bedroom, october 24th, 6:30PM

MEL is reading a book in my bed. Her ears prick up.

MELISSA

No, idiot... not again...

scene 4 again

MIKE

If I HAD a girlfriend, she would reach out to me first, even if I didn't know her.

scene 5 again

MELISSA

It's true, I would.

scene 4 again... again

LIZ

You know, you're going to have to be more active. Most women aren't going to make the first move, that's just not what we do.

MIKE

Well, she wouldn't be most women.

LIZ

I guess not. Just don't let your ridiculous standards get in the way of a potential relationship.

MIKE

Look, I'm not in a place for any relationship stuff anyways, so whatever. When the right one comes along, I'll go after her.

LIZ

Alright, just don't wait too long.

MIKE

Right.

BRENDAN

And you can be Mr. and Mrs. Oleg!

MIKE

BRENDAN, PREPARE FOR DESTRUCTION!!!

scene 6- ext. parent's house, october 24th, 7:30PM

DAD is standing at the doorway while LIZ, BRENDAN, and I are exiting. I'm holding a thing of laundry.

BRENDAN

Thanks for dinner, Mr. Chenoweth.

DAD

No problem, Brendan.

MIKE

Yeah thanks, and for doing my laundry too.

DAD

Hey Mike, before you go, do you need money?

MIKE

...Yeah... I could use some...

He gives me like 5 $20's.

MIKE

Well that's a lot but... alright...

DAD

For later then. See you Wednesday?

MIKE

Yup. Bye!

He closes the door.

liz

So you still want to come over?

MIKE

I can't tonight, I have a lot of homework to do. Tuesday should work better.

LIZ

Alright, that's fine. I have to study anyways and Brendan has to CLEAN THE KITCHEN.

BRENDAN

ARGH!!!

scene 7- int. mike's bedroom, october 24th, 8PM

I open the door and walk in. MELISSA is sittin' there reading a book.

MELISSA

You're back already? That's not cool. I was going to set up an ambush for you and you went and ruined it-

MIKE

Nice to see you too.

MELISSA

Isn't it though?

Kissies.

MELISSA

So what's up? Aren't you going to your sister's?

MIKE

I was, but I decided to come back here.

MELISSA

Why? To spend more time with me?

MIKE

Well, obviously. But I also gotta do my homework that I didn't do earlier.

MELISSA

You can do it there, can't you?

MIKE

No... I need my computer to do it...

I go over to...

scene 8- int. mike's living room, oct. 24th, 8:30pm

I'm in there wasting time online... again! MEL comes in.

MELISSA

What are you... YOU'RE WASTING TIME ONLINE AGAIN!

MIKE

I'll get to work in a second!

MELISSA

You punked out on your family for THIS?

MIKE

I'll spend time with Liz Tuesday! Right now I just want to...

Brain melt.

MELISSA

Alright, Mike. I think it's time that I showed you something.

MIKE

In a minute... I want to check ESPN.

MELISSA

Mike, you're already on ESPN.

MIKE

...Why do I do this internet shit?

MELISSA

I don't know, but you're coming with me.

She jumps into my head and pulls me in after her to...

scene 9- int. mike's imagination, october 24th, ???

We plop down in that big nebulous main brain area that's like the "lobby"

MIKE

What, are we going to explore my mind and smash the block causing me to be an antisocial timewaster?

MELISSA

Nah, not this time.

MIKE

Aw man, I like smashing things.

MELISSA

I do too! But first thing's first, you get to come have dinner at MY house!

MIKE

Alright... what are we having?

MELISSA

NOTHING!!!

COMMERCIAL BREAK!!!

MIKE

Alright, so where is this house of yours?

MELISSA

Far away, deep in your subconscious. Actually, now I've got a nicer place in your conscious, but I'm takin' you to the original place. Dig it?

MIKE

Sure. How we gonna get there?

MELISSA

I'm gonna drive, of course.

MIKE

You can drive?

MELISSA

Of course! I have a chauffeur's license and everything.

MIKE

Oh really. Now where'd you learn something like that?

She comes up and taps my head.

MELISSA

Think about it. Ha. Get it?

Then a crazy car appears out of nowhere!

MELISSA

Hop in!

MIKE

Oh boy...

scene 10- int. mike's information highway, ???

MELISSA is speeding along at breakneck speeds in her car!!! I'm there holding on for dear life!!!

MIKE

Do you think you could slow down a bit?

MELISSA

I could, but... I don't want to. Look, relax. I'm not going to crash, there's nothing to crash into.

SEYMOUR BUTTS leaps out in front of the car. MEL mows him down!

MELISSA

Now, the occasional wandering figment will jump in the way, but I ain't gonna hit anything important.

MIKE

Was that Seymour Butts?

MELISSA

Yes indeedy! Whatever happened to him?

MIKE

He was too dumb and one-dimensional to be a legitimate character. But I dunno, maybe I'll throw him in to something.

MELISSA

Like OUR series?

MIKE

...Yeah...

MELISSA

Cool stuff. SO question time.

MIKE

Oh is it?

MELISSA

Yup yup. Check the clock if you don't believe me.

Clock reads "question time".

MIKE

BOO!!!

MELISSA

Deal with it! SO question is, what's up with you and your family?

MIKE

What are you talking about? I love my family.

MELISSA

So why do you act all weird around them?

MIKE

I'm weird around everybody.

MELISSA

Yeah, but this isn't the cool weird, the weird I like so much.

She brushes my face with her hand.

MIKE

Then what is it then?

MELISSA

Well, you act all evasive and annoyed, you're reluctant to take things they offer, and sometimes you punk out on them when you ain't got nothin' better to do!

MIKE

Alright. First off, tonight I was just nervous because I didn't know how to tell them about you.

MELISSA

Understandable.

MIKE

Second, I don't like taking money and stuff from them when I have no income of my own.

MELISSA

Fair enough.

MIKE

THIRD, I... do that with everyone from time to time. Sometimes I just want to be alone.

MELISSA

Do you really? I mean, it'd be fine if you actually were DOING things while you were by yourself, but 99% of the time you're not!

MIKE

Look, I can be just as lazy and unproductive with other people around, so I don't know what the big deal is.

MELISSA

Alright, I just want to be sure you're doing things that make you happy.

MIKE

Well... uh... thanks?

MELISSA

You're welcome, sweetie face.

She takes my hand and we trade hand kisses.

MIKE

So, how much farther is it?

MELISSA

A little ways, still. By the way...

She pulls my hand closer to her DANGER ZONE!

MELISSA

How good are you at being a passenger with one hand?

scene 11- int. mike's subconscious, ???

MEL, looking curiously frazzled, parks the car and we get out. She fixes her hair and leads the way down a collection of bizarre, disturbed figments and other... things. She stops in front of a little tunnel.

MELISSA

Here it is, come on in.

scene 12- int. melissa's subconscious grotto, ???

We go into her grotto, which is barely big enough to fit the two of us in.

MELISSA

So, this is the living room, over there is the bathroom. Tour's over! Any questions?

MIKE

Uh, yeah! No way this is your place!

MELISSA

Uh, yeah yourself! Remember when you told all your friends I was homeless? Well, you were right, more or less. I've been chilling in this grotto for... I don't even know how long.

MIKE

No, no, no. I'm gonna fix that lickedy-split.

MELISSA

Mike, don't do that-

NICOLE comes in.

nicole

Why didn't you tell me you were brining company?

MIKE

Okay, who the hell is she?

MELISSA

You know Nicole. Anywho, let's get out of here-

MIKE

Nope, not before I make you a home and a family. I just gotta...

I close my eyes tight and start imaginating...

scene 13- ext. imaginary nice, daytime, ???

We plop into a beautiful seaside strip of Riviera-style houses.

MELISSA

Where are we?

MIKE

Nice, France! Where you said you were from! Don't tell me you don't recognize it.

MELISSA

Mike... I just said that stuff so you'd get out of bed and go to French class.

MIKE

Nope! This is your hometown. I've never been here, but I can imagine what it's like.

A bizarre FRENCHMAN figment approaches.

frenchman

AH, BONJOUR! Vous etes Mike, n'est-ce pas? Et, oh, mon dieu, vous devez etre mademoiselle Mouffette! Oh, je t'adore! Je voudrais vous baiser, non! OHOHOHO!!!

MELISSA

CLEAR OUT!!!

She punts him into orbit.

MIKE

Yup, we're in France alright.

MELISSA

Ha.

MIKE

Well, look, it's your house!

We walk up to a particularly beautiful house, with MEL's fake blue skunk MOTHER brushing the stoop or some shit.

mel's fake mother

Ah, Melissa! Comment ca va?

She does the kiss thing. MEL doesn't return.

MEL'S FAKE MOTHER

Et ou est-ce qu'il? Est-ce qu'il votre homme? Il est tres beau, et fort aussi...

MELISSA

Mike, this isn't my mother.

MIKE

Nonsense! Madame Mouffette, est-ce que nous pouvons manger avec vous?

MELISSA

Mais bien sur! Entrez, entrez!

scene 14- int. melissa's fake house, daytime, ???

MEL'S FAKE MOM leads us in to the glorious townhouse into the kitchen, where MEL'S FAKE DAD, a red human, is sittin' there reading the paper.

mel's fake father

Ah, Mel, nice to see you again. And you must be Mike. Put 'er there!

I shake his hand.

MIKE

Heck of a daughter you raised, sir.

MEL'S FAKE FATHER

Thank her mom for that!

MELISSA

Mike, that's not my dad.

MEL'S FAKE FATHER

Ah, don't mind her. She likes to play games sometimes.

MIKE

Don't I know it.

MEL'S FAKE FATHER

Hey, you want to go down to the country club later? Down at the country club... they got the best tonic water...

MELISSA

Mike, this is dumb. Cut it out.

MEL'S FAKE FATHER

And the tonic water... you remember... we had to fight to get that tonic water... god knows I'll never forget the tonic water wars...

MEL'S FAKE MOTHER

Ah oui... la guerre de l'eau tonique... c'etait horrible...

MEL'S FAKE FATHER

But we got the best tonic water now. But... AT WHAT COST?!?!

MEL'S FAKE MOTHER

POURQUOI!?!?

MELISSA

MIKE, STOP IT!!!

MIKE

...Alright... I'll stop...

The background starts to melt away into...

scene 8 again

I'm back on my chair and MEL is in the doorway.

MELISSA

Look, I'm sorry for snapping at you, but do you know why I took you to my grotto?

MIKE

Not really...

MELISSA

I was trying to show you what it's like to live in a little grotto for your whole life. A cramped hideaway with no family, no friends, no support system, and nothing to do all day but... do nothing.Believe me, it's not very fun.

MIKE

I think I understand...

MELISSA

I knew you would.

Kiss!

MELISSA

SO! What are you gonna do now?

MIKE

I'm gonna go over to Liz's!

MELISSA

Whoa, tonight? I don't think so! You got homework to do, remember?

MIKE

Son of a bitch...

scene 15- int. liz's condo, october 26th, 10PM

LIZ, BRENDAN and I are watchin' Chopped!

LIZ

So, who do you think is going to win?

MIKE

I dunno... I'll make a guarantee though, crazy hair there? He will NOT finish in 2nd. Aaand that spaz there? He will NOT finish 3rd.

LIZ

Interesting. I would have guessed that SHE wouldn't finish 2nd.

MIKE

Well, she won't finish 2nd either. But she won't finish 4th, I bet ya.

LIZ

Righto. We'll see.

MIKE

Yes, we will. (beat) Hey Brendan, want to play WORMS after the show?

BRENDAN

WORMS!

MIKE

WORMS! Awesome. (beat) So Liz, I've been thinking about what you said on Sunday, and...

LIZ

Yeah?

MIKE

Well, I don't want to jinx anything, but I think I found someone worth pursuing!

MEL, in my brain, perks up her ears in dread.

LIZ

Cool! What's her name?

MIKE

Her name's Melissa. I started talking to her one day in class, and we hit it off, and now... well, I don't want to jinx anything, but I think it could develop into something!

LIZ

Have you asked her on a date?

MIKE

Yeah, actually, we're gonna hang out later tonight! She keeps weird hours like I do so it'll all work out.

LIZ

Awesome! I hope it goes well. When are you leaving then?

MIKE

Not for a while. After all, I'm not going to pass up the opportunity to hang with my awesome sister and brother in law for a little longer, now am I?

LIZ

I guess not.

MELISSA

Well done, sir. Well done.

MIKE

Hey Brendan, could you get me a glass of milk?

BRENDAN

K.

LIZ

No, Brendan, don't get it for him!

OUTRO SEQUENCE!!!

Brain spillage! Go family!